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EXAMINER	
DAY, HERNG DER	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2128	

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/873,622	DAVEY, KENT	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Herng-der Day	2128	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *31 August 2005 and 30 November 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-9 and 11* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-9 and 11* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *31 August 2005* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to Applicant's Reply ("Reply 1") to Office Action dated May 31, 2005, mailed August 31, 2005, and Applicant's RCE and Reply ("Reply 2") to Advisory Action dated September 15, 2005, mailed November 30, 2005.

1-1. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Claims 1-9 and 11 are pending.

1-2. Claims 1-9 and 11 have been examined and rejected.

Drawings

2. The replacement drawing sheets of Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 received on August 31, 2005, are acceptable. The objection to the drawings has been withdrawn.

Specification

3. The incorporation of essential material in the specification by reference to an unpublished U.S. application, foreign application or patent, or to a publication is improper. Applicant is required to amend the disclosure to include the material incorporated by reference, if the material is relied upon to overcome any objection, rejection, or other requirement imposed by the Office. The amendment must be accompanied by a statement executed by the applicant, or a practitioner representing the applicant, stating that the material being inserted is the material previously incorporated by reference and that the amendment contains no new matter. 37 CFR 1.57(f).

3-1. The attempt to incorporate subject matter into this application by reference to two publications of Applicant, as described at page 11, steps e and f, is ineffective because in any

application which is to issue as a U.S. patent, essential material may not be incorporated by reference to non-patent publications.

3-2. The incorporation by reference will not be effective until correction is made to comply with 37 CFR 1.57(b), (c), or (d). If the incorporated material is relied upon to meet any outstanding objection, rejection, or other requirement imposed by the Office, the correction must be made within any time period set by the Office for responding to the objection, rejection, or other requirement for the incorporation to be effective. Compliance will not be held in abeyance with respect to responding to the objection, rejection, or other requirement for the incorporation to be effective. In no case may the correction be made later than the close of prosecution as defined in 37 CFR 1.114(b), or abandonment of the application, whichever occurs earlier.

Any correction inserting material by amendment that was previously incorporated by reference must be accompanied by a statement that the material being inserted is the material incorporated by reference and the amendment contains no new matter. 37 CFR 1.57(f).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 1-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

5-1. Claim 1 recites the limitations including: (1) using a multi-variable spline analysis in step d) and (2) using a variable metric sequential quadratic program algorithm in step e). However, as described at page 11, none of the above-mentioned analysis or algorithm, which is essential matter to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention, has been fully disclosed in the specification but is ineffectively incorporated by reference respectively to the two non-patent publications of Applicant. Therefore, it fails to comply with the enablement requirement.

5-2. Claims not specifically rejected above are rejected as being dependent on a rejected claim.

Double Patenting

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., In re Berg, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); In re Goodman, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); In re Longi, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); In re Van Ornum, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); In re Vogel, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and In re Thorington, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

7. Claim 1 is rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,527,695 B1 issued to Davey et al., in view of Ruohonen, "Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation: Modelling and New Techniques", Doctoral Thesis, Department of Engineering Physics and Mathematics, Helsinki University of Technology, 1998, pages 1-50 (IDS 10, filed February 7, 2005).

The conflicting claims are all directed to maximizing stimulation by using the same membrane voltage equation for optimizing parameters including core reluctance and winding resistance. In other words, in claim 1, although this instant application recites more detailed steps in computing core reluctance using a boundary element analysis for the core, wherein the core is assumed to have a one-turn inductance in step b) and in computing a value for the inner and outer core radii using specified analysis and algorithm in steps d) and e), these steps are not non-obvious over the limitations of "selecting an optimal reluctance" and "selecting an optimal winding resistance" as recited in claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,527,695 B1, because without

optimizing calculation there are no values for selecting optimal values to maximize stimulation by using membrane voltage equation.

However, this instant application does have an additional limitation "a) allowing the inner and outer core radii to change parametrically in a nested loop". Nevertheless, Davey et al., in U.S. Patent No. 6,527,695 B1, do suggest, "The choice of the inner radius depends on a optimized balance between decreasing the reluctance and decreasing the resistance" (column 7, lines 41-45).

Ruohonen discloses modeling TMS and using the developed models as a basis for engineering modifications that would increase the utility of TMS (page 4, paragraph 3). Specifically, Ruohonen discloses "Coil design must always be taken into account when constructing TMS equipment" (page 23, paragraph 2), "In one study, a mathematical method was used to maximise the focality by changing the coil shape" (page 23, paragraph 1) and "Problems with power consumption and coil heating can be alleviated by reducing the coil's resistance, determined by the wire gauge and coil geometry" (page 23, paragraph 5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Davey et al. to incorporate the teachings of Ruohonen because as suggested by Davey et al., "The choice of the inner radius depends on a optimized balance between decreasing the reluctance and decreasing the resistance" and also suggested by Ruohonen, "Coil design must always be taken into account when constructing TMS equipment", "a mathematical method was used to maximise the focality by changing the coil shape", and "Problems with power consumption and coil heating can be alleviated by reducing the coil's resistance, determined by the wire gauge and coil geometry".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davey et al. ("Davey1"), U.S. Patent 6,527,695 B1 issued March 4, 2003, in view of Ruohonen, "Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation: Modelling and New Techniques", Doctoral Thesis, Department of Engineering Physics and Mathematics, Helsinki University of Technology, 1998, pages 1-50 (IDS 10, filed February 7, 2005) and further in view of Davey ("Davey2"), "Use of Tensor Product Splines in Magnet Optimization", IEEE Transactions on Magnetics, Volume 35, Issue 3, May 1999, pages 1714-1717.

9-1. Regarding claim 1, Davey1 discloses a computerized method of optimizing properties of a magnetic core, the core having inner and outer radii and windings (core and N turns windings, FIG. 1 (a)), the computerized method having computer-executable instructions for performing the following:

b) computing core reluctance, number of turns, and winding resistance for each position (reluctance, winding resistance, column 2, lines 49-62; number of turns, column 8, lines 53-55), wherein the core reluctance is computed using a boundary element analysis for the core, wherein the core is assumed to have a one-turn inductance (boundary element, column 8, lines 63-65);

c) computing the maximum induced membrane voltage based on the following equation (equation (17), columns 5-6);

Davey1 fails to expressly disclose a) allowing the inner and outer core radii to change parametrically in a nested loop. Nevertheless, Davey1 does suggest, "The choice of the inner radius depends on a optimized balance between decreasing the reluctance and decreasing the resistance" (column 7, lines 41-45).

Ruohonen discloses modeling TMS and using the developed models as a basis for engineering modifications that would increase the utility of TMS (page 4, paragraph 3). Specifically, Ruohonen suggests "Coil design must always be taken into account when constructing TMS equipment" (page 23, paragraph 2), "In one study, a mathematical method was used to maximise the focality by changing the coil shape" (page 23, paragraph 1) and "Problems with power consumption and coil heating can be alleviated by reducing the coil's resistance, determined by the wire gauge and coil geometry" (page 23, paragraph 5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Davey1 to incorporate the teachings of Ruohonen to obtain the invention as specified in steps a) to c) of claim 1 as suggested by Davey1 and Ruohonen.

Davey1 also fail to expressly disclose d) fitting the maximum induced membrane voltage to the inner and outer core radii using a multi-variable spline analysis and e) using a variable metric sequential quadratic program algorithm to compute a value for the inner and outer core radii that maximizes the maximum induced membrane voltage. Nevertheless, Davey1 does suggest, "selecting an optimal winding resistance", "the optimal frequency, optimal reluctance, optimal capacitance and/or the optimal winding resistance are selected to maximize stimulation

of a peripheral nerve cell" (column 2, lines 49-62), and "The maximization of the nerve stimulation is achieved by maximizing the membrane voltage (Abstract).

Davey2 discloses the usefulness of tensor product splines in magnetic optimization (Abstract). It includes the following steps: "(1) analyze the problem over the range of positions sought, (2) perform a functional fit to the index to be minimized, (3) employ a directed optimization technique (e.g., variable metric) to obtain the optimal solution, (4) verify that the functional fit is valid by varying the starting guess using a Monte Carlo method, (5) verify the accuracy of the prediction and if necessary repeat 1-4 over a smaller range" (page 1714, left column, the last paragraph). Furthermore, "The technique requires first collection data; this is performed using a parametric analysis in which the parameters are allowed to vary in a nested loop" (page 1717, right column, paragraph 3). An exemplary application has been demonstrated to select the inner and outer die shape that minimizes the departure of the field in the cavity from the target value specified (pages 1715-1716, section IV. Application; A. Team Workshop problem # 25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combined teachings of Davey1 and Ruohonen to incorporate the teachings of Davey2 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1 because of the identified usefulness of tensor product splines in magnetic optimization as suggested by Davey2 in the demonstrated application to select the inner and outer die shape.

9-2. Regarding claim 2, Davey2 further discloses comprising the step of:

f) repeating step e) with a Monte Carlo starting guess algorithm (varying the starting guess using a Monte Carlo method, page 1714, left column, the last paragraph), wherein said

step f) insures that a global maximum is found (Multiple Monte Carlo restarts can rapidly check the internal space to avoid local wells, page 1714, right column, the first paragraph).

9-3. Regarding claim 3, Davey1 further discloses said method is performed with a preselected wire size (The resistance of 20 mΩ approximates that of 6.09 m (20') of #10 gauge wire with no skin effect, column 10, lines 34-36).

9-4. Regarding claim 4, Davey1 further discloses comprising the initial step of selecting a wire size (The resistance of 20 mΩ approximates that of 6.09 m (20') of #10 gauge wire with no skin effect, column 10, lines 29-36).

9-5. Regarding claim 5, Davey1 further discloses comprising the initial step of selecting a wire size (The resistance of 20 mΩ approximates that of 6.09 m (20') of #10 gauge wire with no skin effect, column 10, lines 29-36).

9-6. Regarding claim 6, Davey1 further discloses comprising the steps of:

g) selecting different wire sizes (the resistance of 45 mΩ approximates the same wire treated as solid copper tube with skin effect near 8 kHz, column 10, lines 36-38), and

h) repeating steps a-e for each different wire size selected (The increase in resistance results in a 9.2% decrease in membrane stimulation voltage for the same energy, column 10, lines 38-39).

9-7. Regarding claim 7, Davey1 further discloses comprising the steps of:

g) selecting different wire sizes (the resistance of 45 mΩ approximates the same wire treated as solid copper tube with skin effect near 8 kHz, column 10, lines 36-38), and

h) repeating steps a-f for each different wire size selected (The increase in resistance results in a 9.2% decrease in membrane stimulation voltage for the same energy, column 10, lines 38-39).

9-8. Regarding claim 8, Davey1 further discloses comprising the step of:

i) selecting the wire size which maximizes the membrane voltage (keeping the exciting circuit resistance small, column 10, line 65, through column 11, line 1).

9-9. Regarding claim 9, Davey1 further discloses comprising the step of:

i) selecting the wire size which maximizes the membrane voltage (keeping the exciting circuit resistance small, column 10, line 65, through column 11, line 1).

9-10. Regarding claim 11, Davey1 further discloses comprising manufacturing a magnetic core (constructing said magnetic nerve stimulator, column 13, lines 8-9).

Applicant's Arguments

10. Applicant argues the following:

10-1. Objections to the Specification

(1) "Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references are not essential material" (page 6, paragraph 6, through page 7, paragraph 1, Reply 1).

10-2. Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

(2) " Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references are not essential material" (page 7, paragraph 3, Reply 1).

10-3. Double Patenting Rejection

(3) "Ruohonen fails to teach or suggest: 'allowing the inner and outer core radii to change parametrically in a nested loop' or 'computing core reluctance, number of turns, and winding resistance for each position, wherein the core reluctance is computed using a boundary element analysis for the core, wherein the core is assumed to have a one-turn inductance' as claimed" (page 7, paragraph 2, Reply 1).

(4) "even if the teachings of Davey 1 and Ruohonen were combined, they would not teach or suggest the claimed invention to a skilled artisan" (page 7, paragraph 3, Reply 2).

10-4. Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

(5) "to properly reject a dependent claim under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), the Examiner must find a reference that teaches all of the limitations of the dependent claim and of any claims from which the dependent claim depends" (page 8, paragraph 1, Reply 2).

10-5. Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

(6) "Claim 1 has been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that Davey 1 and/or Ruohonen, either taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the subject matter of claims 1-9 for the reasons discussed above in connection with the present Reply's discussion of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection" (page 8, paragraph 3, Reply 2).

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered.

11-1. Applicant's arguments (1)-(2) are not persuasive. Claim 1 recites the limitations including: (1) using a multi-variable spline analysis in step d) and (2) using a variable metric sequential quadratic program algorithm in step e). Accordingly, the above-mentioned analysis

and algorithm are essential matter to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. However, as described at page 11, none of the above-mentioned analysis and algorithm has been fully disclosed in the specification. They are ineffectively incorporated by reference respectively to the two non-patent publications of Applicant. Therefore, "the cited references are not essential material" is not persuasive.

11-2. Applicant's arguments (3)-(4) are not persuasive. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s).

Davey et al., in U.S. Patent No. 6,527,695 B1, suggest, "The choice of the inner radius depends on a optimized balance between decreasing the reluctance and decreasing the resistance" (column 7, lines 41-45). On the other hand, Ruohonen suggest, "Coil design must always be taken into account when constructing TMS equipment" (page 23, paragraph 2), "In one study, a mathematical method was used to maximise the focality by changing the coil shape" (page 23, paragraph 1) and "Problems with power consumption and coil heating can be alleviated by reducing the coil's resistance, determined by the wire gauge and coil geometry" (page 23, paragraph 5). Based on the suggestions of both Davey et al. and Ruohonen, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine both teachings to maximize the membrane voltage by reducing the winding resistance through determining optimal wire gauge and coil geometry including inner and outer core radii.

In other words, claim 1 of this application would have been obvious over the reference claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,527,695 B1.

11-3. Applicant's argument (5) is persuasive. The rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in Office Action dated May 31, 2005, has been withdrawn.

11-4. Response to Applicant's argument (6). A new ground of rejection is made, as detailed in sections **9** to **9-10** above. The rejections of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in Office Action dated May 31, 2005, have been withdrawn.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Herng-der Day whose telephone number is (571) 272-3777. The Examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 17:30.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: (571) 272-2100.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Kamini S. Shah can be reached on (571) 272-2279. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Herng-der Day
January 19, 2006 H.D.

Thai Phan
Patent Examiner
Art. 2128